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Office of University
Communications

December 19, 2016

Ceremony Honors Nearly 240 GWU Graduates

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner–Webb

University hosted Fall Commencement on

Monday, Dec. 19, in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center. Nearly 240 graduates were honored during the ceremony.

GWU achieved several notable milestones during commencement. The Hunt School of Nursing awarded its 2,000th combined degree at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. The University conferred its 8,500th graduate level degree, and the Department of Social Sciences presented its 300th Criminal Justice degree.

The ceremony featured graduates of Gardner-Webb's traditional undergraduate program, Degree Completion Program (DCP), and graduate programs. Dewayne Wray (Gaffney, S.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, offered the invocation. Adam White (Asheboro, N.C.), who earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, and Tara Roberts Hayes (Forest City, N.C.), who received a Master of Science in Nursing, provided the scripture readings.

Some graduates were honored for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academic excellence. The Most Outstanding Male Graduate medal was presented to music education major Adam Courtenay White of Asheboro, N.C., while Michelle Lynn Evans, a biology major from Elkin, N.C, was awarded the Most Outstanding Female Graduate medal. Aaron Taylor Alexander (Shelby, N.C.), a double major in communication studies and art, was recognized for academic achievement with the Senior Scholastic Award. The Degree Completion Program Academic Award was presented to Sandra Kiser Gann (Albemarle, N.C.), a business administration major.

Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, professor of economics and international business, shared the commencement address. "For the past few years of study, you were under a curriculum designed to prepare you for your chosen field," he reflected. "However, there is no curriculum for how to navigate the vast ocean of issues you may face. But there are real-world 'electives' for you to choose which can assist you in achieving your desired goals."

He continued, “Your service to God and your impact to society beyond graduation will yield unsurpassed dividends. Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘Be the change that you wish to see in the world.’ Don’t be afraid to take calculated risks. Go beyond this day and impact the world around you.”

Gardner-Webb University salutes Grad Images (GradImages.com), our vendor for official commencement portraits. Additional commencement photos will be available for viewing and/or purchase on Dec. 21 at photos.gardner-webb.edu.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University’s purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).